



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: JOSEPH E. THOMPSON AND JOEL L. BOLES

Filed: MARCH 24, 2000

For: GELLED HYDROCARBON COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR USE THEREOF

Serial No.: 09/534,655

Group Art Unit: 1712

Examiner: TUCKER, P.

Atty Dkt: BJSC:286

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date below:

10.30.01

Marty Boles

Name

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I. RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT; AND
II. AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

The following is submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 10, 2001. No fees are believed to be due, however should any fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from O'Keefe, Egan & Peterman Deposit Account No. 10-1205/BJSC:286.

I. RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 10, 2001, Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute the Group I claims (Claims 37-74, 76-79 and 81-88 as amended herein). Please cancel Group II and Group III claims, 75 and 80, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the Group II and/or Group III claims in one or more other applications.

II. AMENDMENT

The following amendments are submitted to put the claims of Group I in better form for examination in view of the response to the restriction requirement filed concurrently herewith. Following these amendments, claims 37-74, 76-79 and 81-88 are pending.

The pending claims include amended dependent claims 76-79 and 81-83, each reciting a gelled organic fluid, and therefore falling under the claims of Group I. In this regard, claims 79 and 83 have been amended to be independent claims including the limitations of canceled claim 75 and canceled claim 80, respectively. Each of amended claims 76-78 and 81-82 depend directly or indirectly from either claim 79 or claim 83. Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 76-79 and 81-83 as shown in the attached sheet (additions underlined, deletions bracketed). A clean version of the all of the claims is as follows.

37. A method of forming a gelled organic-based fluid, comprising combining the following components to form said gelled organic fluid:

at least one organic base fluid, at least one carboxylic acid, and at least one first metal source compound;

wherein said carboxylic acid comprises at least one multi-functional carboxylic acid.